



The Voice for Illinois Forests

To act on issues that impact rural and community forests and to promote forestry in Illinois

****IFA Officers****

President

Ray Herman
brherman154@gmail.com

Vice President

J. B. Gates
rjbgate@hamiltoncom.net

Secretary

Dave Gillespie
dandgisp@aol.com

Treasurer

Bob Sloan
rsloan@joysta.com

****Inside this Issue****

President's Remarks	1
Swadust, V.P. Update	2
Secretary's Report	2
Calendar of Events	2
Forest Trees of Illinois 10th Edition	2
Legislative Update	3
Member's Voice	3
Illinois Team Finishes Second in National 4-H Forestry Invitational	3
Gold/Silver Award Banquet	4
Have you seen a buuternut tree?	4
Rising from the Ashes	5
Region 1 Report	5
Annual Meeting Registration	6
NRCS 2008 Farm Bill Report	7

and more....

**It's here on the
World Wide Web...**

IFA Web site
www.ilforestry.org

President's Message

Ray Herman, IFA President

All of you have seen and, I hope, voted for the new officers and directors by now. In some cases, there is no competition for the office. I do regret that, because I know that many of you have a lot to offer to help make IFA stronger. I do, however, want to say "thanks" to all of you potential "new board members" who said you wanted to help lead this growing association. So, if you have not voted, please do.

I believe our association is, little by little, gaining a bit more respect. We are being asked to assist with the development and planning of several workshops that you will see announced later in the newsletter. Also, having our own lobbyist is paying dividends because it gives us an element of political clout. While we are getting more involved with others in budget and personnel discussions as a board, we still must have "your voice" to build the ground swell.

As your president, I and the rest of your board, try to do things that we believe you would have us do in support of you. We are joining forces with Illinois Tree Farmers, and jointly planning some of the workshops. We forestry groups must work together. Our working together will make both groups stronger.

We will soon enter into a cooperative agreement with Illinois Arborist Association to share legislative efforts. Dave Gillespie and Kurt Bobsin from IFA have developed a draft agreement to share our lobbyist with them. I applaud their efforts. This activity gains support for many of our issues and will help IFA better understand and assist with community issues.

Recently, Edith Makra, Community Trees Advocate at Morton Arboretum, told us about a potential tree planting project with the City of Chicago. I am hoping IFA members in that area might play a role in their proposal. Time will tell.

I must take a minute to personally thank each board member for the past two years of assistance and support. I am very, very pleased with our accomplishments! Please consider attending our annual meeting later this month. (Details on page 6.)

I hope to see many of you in Charleston.

"A community without trees is a community without character."

Mayor Jennie Stultz, Gastonia, N.C.

Calendar of Events 2008

August 23, 2008

Illinois Forestry Association
Annual Meeting
(217) 345-3901 ext 4

August 23- Sept. 7, 2008

Rising from the Ash:
Furniture from lost trees
10 am -4 pm
Morton Arboretum Visitor Center
(630) 968-0074
mortonarb.org

September 11, 2008

Woodland Workshop
Pike County, between Pittsfield
and Detroit
Brenda at Two Rivers RC&D
(217)285-4114

September 13, 2008

Woodland Workshop
Effingham County, near Mason
John Schuler at Post Oak RC&D
(217)347-7107

September 16, 2008

Woodland Workshop
Crawford County, near Palestine
John Schuler at Post Oak RC&D
(217)347-7107, Ext.6

September 17, 2008

Loud Thunder Forest Preserve
Rock Island County
Sandy at Interstate RC&D
(309) 764-1486, ext. 4

September 20, 2008

Jubilee College Park in Peoria
County
Amy or Josh at Peoria County
SWCD
(309)671-7040 ext. 3

September 20, 2008

Forestry Field Day
Etheridge Farm
near Taylorville, IL.
goatdoc@cititech.com

October 11-12, 2008

Illinois Walnut Council Annual
Meeting
Schmoker Tree Farm
near Eldred, IL.
(217) 416-1587 or
schmoker3@aol.com

October 24, 2008

Stephenson Co. Park near
Freeport
Dave or Julie at Blackhawk Hills
RC&D
(815)625-3854

SAWDUST from the V.P.

J. B Gates, Vice President

I have just returned from a couple of road trips, one to the middle south and the other to the Carolinas. Illinois is still the best, in my opinion.

Just a bit of sawdust, but things you might want to keep in mind. With the higher prices of oil and gas, some old deeds selling sub-surface minerals many years ago may be coming into play today. I know a company who implied that they owned the coal and they wanted to mine. They did own the coal with a deed made in the 1910's; but they wanted to strip mine, a different story due to destroying the surface. Read your abstracts and know what you have and do not have. Some of those old deeds 'gave away the farm'. And, in addition, many of those old documents make for interesting reading.

I keep seeing where a few more 'brokers' of carbon credits are opening their doors. Use caution and check out the marketplace before jumping. Also keep checking the IFA website for more information on Carbon Credits and established forestry stands. The rules are in the process of being changed. Keep your elected officials informed of your wishes concerning proposed changes. They are to represent the people who elected them. If you do not praise them when they pass legislation that is good for you and you do not talk with them about bills that are harmful to the forestry industry, you cannot complain. We have a wonderful lobbyist who works for our mutual benefit; but she needs our help as individuals, not just as an association. Again, check the IFA web site for current legislation.

I would like to see us develop a stronger grassroots base. This could be on a county by county basis or several counties joining together. Think about how this can be accomplished. The association is only as strong as its members.

**Annual Meeting Registration
found on page 6.**

Secretary's Report

Dave Gillespie, IFA Secretary

It is great to say again that the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) continues to grow in membership. As I write this we have 756 members. Our goal of 800 members by the end of the year is within reach. Please continue to talk to your friends and neighbors about the IFA. Ask them to join. If there are any questions I am easy to find. Call me on my cell phone at 217-494-6982, or send me an e-mail at dandgisp@aol.com.

We are seriously considering sending the IFA newsletter via e-mail, or via an e-mail notice that the IFA newsletter can be viewed and printed from the IFA website. This will save a great deal on postage. A number of you have recommended this method to distribute the newsletter. I have created four (4) groups, one group for each IFA region.

If you have an e-mail address, but did not put it on your IFA Membership form when you joined, or your e-mail address has changed since then, please send it to me. For those of you who do not have e-mail, you will continue to receive the newsletter through the mail.

Don't forget the upcoming IFA Annual Meeting in Charleston on August 23. The program looks great. I have been receiving reservations at our post office box almost every day since we sent out the notice. I have also received many ballots for the election of our officers and directors. Keep those coming! I look forward to visiting with you in Charleston.

Forest Trees of Illinois, 10th Edition

By Jay C. Hayek, Extension Forester

University of Illinois Extension plans to release the tenth edition of this popular book, *Forest Trees of Illinois*, around Thanksgiving 2008. This publication will be made available to the public for purchase through Extension's Web site. Perhaps the most significant change to this updated edition is the new tree bark pictures. In addition to modest text edits throughout, the editor has included several new native tree species.

Member's Voice

This column was established to offer members the opportunity to share ideas and concerns with the membership and with the IFA Board.

I would like to suggest that IFA see what they can do in the form of offering information and a form for members to volunteer to help their local Illinois Dept. of Natural resources (DNR.) I have tried to volunteer for the DNR, but have not been able to do so. I have contacted the DNR in Springfield to see if there is a standard volunteer application form which I can get a hold of. I am awaiting word from them.

I do believe the DNR staff cuts as outlined in your "An Open Letter" has affected employee moral and attitude. Volunteers can not replace certified staff, but if their help will allow a DNR staff person to get one more job done, then this would be positive.

If there is a way volunteers can be approved at the State level, then it would be easy for the volunteer to present their already completed approval to their local DNR people.

Anonomous

IFA Legislative Update

Paula Purdue and Jenni Purdue

On May 31st the Illinois General Assembly finished session on time with a budget passed out of both houses. Unfortunately, that budget is unbalanced by about 1 to 2 billion dollars (depending on who you talk to). The Governor did amendatory veto major portions of the budget with the hope of encouraging the House to pass the gaming and funds sweep bills that the Senate passed in May. The House did not pass any increase in funds bills when they were in session in July. The Senate is not planning on getting together to deal with the budget cuts until Veto-override Session scheduled for November 12-15, 19-21. A major concern is the lack of communication between the House and Senate and Governor. It is impossible to devise a compromise when communication is non-existent. So even though session is "officially" over, there is still much work to be done.

We are still working on HB4549. Unfortunately, the bill did not get out of the House after the Senate removed the JCAR amendment that the Speaker of the House required. We thought there might be a way of adding HB 4549 onto an "agreed bill list" during veto-override in the fall. An agreed bill list is a list of bills that the House and Senate leadership agree to have on a list for a single vote. Agreed bill lists are often used at the end of session to get bills that have little or no opposition on the Governor's desk. This possibility is not looking good, now.

We need every IFA member and their friends to contact their legislators and ask them to help to get HB 4549 on the Governor's desk.

Please also thank Rep. Reitz, Senator Sullivan and Senator Righter for sponsoring the bill and helping it on its way to date. The bill has received no 'No' votes in committees or on the floor of the House or Senate. We just need to get an agreement from the leadership of the House and Senate so we can get it to the Governor's desk.

This year was a very tough year, with no one getting along, and as you can see many good pieces of legislation have been stalled, and our budget is in limbo. That being said, we've still got some opportunities to get our legislation through, and we think we have started to lay some good groundwork for getting a future budget request. Even though we didn't get everything that we wanted in this session, IFA has a stronger presence in the capital. Hopefully we will be able to come to an agreement on HB4549 this year, and continue to build key relationships with legislators so that IFA can benefit from the legislative process.

Illinois Team Finishes Second in the National 4-H Forestry Invitational

Illinois finished second among the 14 state teams that participated in the 29th Annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational from Sunday, July 20, through Thursday, July 24. Teams from Alabama and Pennsylvania finished first and third, respectively.

At the Invitational, 4-H members competed for overall team and individual awards in several categories. Events included a forestry written exam, tree identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, insect and disease

IL4-H Team continued on page 5

Do you have a passion for trees and forestry?

Are you interested in serving on a regional committee?

Contact an IFA officer today to find out how you can help!

Illinois Forestry Association

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization under IRS 501(c)3

Gold and Silver Awards Banquet - by Beth Riley, IFA Director at large: Joe Newcomb, IFA Region 4 Director

The Illinois Tree Farm Committee, Southern Region, conducted a Gold and Silver Awards Banquet for fifty and twenty-five year Tree Farm members in the Southern Region on May 3rd, 2008. Two Gold members and nine silver members were present at the banquet, along with their guests. The Tree Farmers were presented a certificate and a special sign (some signs had to be ordered to be delivered later). The banquet was organized by Beth and Jack Riley, and was held at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church near Dix, Illinois. Besides a very good catered meal, Tree Farmers and their guests enjoyed a welcome by Joe Patterson, an Illinois Tree Farm update by Mary Grapperhaus, and an Illinois Forestry Association update by R-4 Director, Joe Newcomb. Also, a very good power point presentation on FDA and Senate Bill 17 was given by District Forester, Dave Johnson. A brief Tree Farm meeting followed the meal. Total attendance was fifty-three participants. Southern Region considers the banquet to have been a complete success enjoyed by all. Southern Region Tree Farm Committee plans to get together next on September 13th at Floyd Pagel's Tree Farm in Effingham County.



Organizers; Beth Riley & Clint Patterson



Joe Newcomb - Presenter, IFA Overview

Have you seen a butternut tree? USDA Forest Service seeks help from private landowners

Keith Woeste, U.S. Forest Service

Butternut (*Juglans cinerea* L.), also called white walnut, lemonnut or oilnut, is a small- to medium-size tree, frequently 40 to 60 feet tall that seldom exceeds 75 years of age. It is native to the Northeastern quarter of the United States and the southernmost parts of Canada. As its name suggests, butternut is a member of the walnut family, and it produces a large, thick-shelled nut, typically 1 1/2 to 2 inches in length. The husk or hull of butternuts is yellow-green and covered with sticky hairs. The nut inside is usually football-shaped with a distinctly pointed end and four or eight prominent seams. The nutmeat is rich in oils and sweet, its flavor makes it a favorite of wildlife and those people lucky enough to find them and patient enough to crack them.

How can I identify butternut trees? Butternut leaves are similar in appearance to the common eastern black walnut, but there are several features that distinguish the two species. Butternut bark usually (but not always) has wide, somewhat shallow, smooth-topped ridges superimposed on darker fissures. Thus, butternut bark often

appears shiny and gray, rather than the medium to dark color of walnut bark. Butternut twigs contain pith that is dark brown and chambered, and butternut twigs are often hairy in the spring and summer. The leaf scars of butternut (the point at which last year's leaves were attached) are surmounted by a fringe of hairs that looks a bit like a moustache. Butternut terminal buds are hairy and pointed. Black walnut twigs have light-brown pith, the leaf scars have no hairs, and the terminal buds of walnut twigs are smooth and somewhat blunt. The hulls covering the nuts of a walnut tree are round and smooth, the hulls covering butternuts are football shaped or lemon shaped and covered with sticky hairs. Butternut is not the same as bitternut, which is a kind of hickory.

Why are butternuts becoming so uncommon? Over the last 40 years or so a fungal disease known as butternut canker has killed 80 to 90 percent of the butternut trees in the United States. Butternut canker is lethal and it spreads quickly. It has been found in every part of the butternut's range. Most butternuts are highly susceptible to the disease, and all ages and size classes of trees can be infected. Infections appear first in

the upper crown on one or two year old wood. These cankers are often elliptical in shape and slightly sunken. They will later develop an inky black center.

If you know of the location of a living butternut, please contact Dr. Keith Woeste using the contact numbers and addresses below. You can learn more about the butternut story at these websites:

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_but/ht_but.htm

<http://www.forestry.state.al.us/publication/100/Butternut.pdf>

http://www.lronline.com/Extension/Notes_English/pdf/bttrnt.pdf Additional information about butternut and butternut management will appear on Woeste's website in the near future.



Leaves of butternut tree. (Image courtesy Ken Sytsma, University of Wisconsin-Madison Botany Department.)

Meet Your Board of Directors!

Officers

Ray Herman, **President**
Phone: 217/687-2712
Cell: 217/377-7568
Email: brherman154@gmail.com

J. B. Gates, **Vice President**
Phone: 618/963-2306
Email: rjbgate@hamiltoncom.net

Dave Gillespie, **Secretary**
Phone: 217/483-2711
Email: dandgisp@aol.com

Bob Sloan, **Treasurer**
Phone: 309/246-8391
Email: rsloan@joysta.com

Directors

Region 1

Mary Duff
Phone: 773/327-9221
Cell: 312/732-1396
MDScottie@aol.com

Debbie Jones
Phone: 815/478-4201
Cell: 815/922-2635
woodsylwomann1@aol.com

Region 2

Lee Rife
Phone: 217/529-9498
Cell: 217/562-2634
rife@springnet1.com

Susan Romano
Phone: 309/769-5475
Cell: 309/333-1568
s-romano2@wiu.edu

Region 3

Rollie Spaniol
Phone: 217/345-6266
cfrds@eiu.edu

Roy Bailey
Phone: 618/238-4863
Cell: 217/343-3574
bailytrees@frontiernet.net

Region 4

Joe Newcomb
Phone: 618/265-3286
Cell: 618/599-5067
jnewcomb2@juno.com

Stephanie Brown
Phone: 618/949-3698
Cell: 618/949-3699
sbrown63@shawneelink.net

Directors at Large

Mike Kiefer
Phone: 815/432-5741
Cell: 815/471-5743
linus@mchsi.com

Beth Riley
Phone: 618/266-7610
Cell: 618-316-4879
jbril@netwitz.net

Rising From the Ashes: Furniture from Lost Trees

<http://mortonarb.org/main.taf?p=1,3,39>

By Jay C. Hayek, Extension Forester

It's a sad thing when an ash tree is killed by the emerald ash borer — and it's even sadder to know that we are likely to lose many more ash trees to the invading insect in the Chicago region in years to come. But lost ashes can make art. "Rising from the Ashes: Furniture from Lost Trees" is an exhibit of some two dozen pieces of furniture handmade by members of the Chicago Furniture Design Association, all of it incorporating wood from ash trees felled by borers. The designs, with swooping curves, elaborate carving and inlays, are spectacular, but the goal of the show at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle is to promote a good use for the lumber from all the ash trees that arborists expect will have to be felled.

See more than 20 pieces of fine furniture made from ash wood by members of the Chicago Furniture Design Association. The traveling exhibition, designed by The Morton Arboretum, highlights the value of urban forests and the devastating effects of Emerald Ash Borer, as well as the furniture-making process and the use of ash as lumber. See calendar for dates and times.

Region 1 Report

Debbie Jones and Mary Duff, Region 1 Directors

We remain committed to hosting "let's get acquainted" IFA meetings for each county in the Chicago area this fall. But we do need at least one IFA volunteer who can help us organize an event for his/her county. There are not many IFA members in each individual county, but we thought it would be fun to meet one another and invite staff and members from other partner organizations that are active in each county (e.g. forest preserve, soil and water conservation district, park district).

Setting the topics of discussion will be up to the IFA members...in addition to meeting your fellow members, which topics are you most interested in learning about? If you live in Cook, Will, DuPage, Lake, McHenry, or Kane County and would have time to help call IFA members and coordinate arrangements for the get togethers, please call or email either Debbie Jones or Mary Duff. Thanks! We look forward to hearing from you and becoming acquainted.

Debbie (815)478-4201
woodsylwomann1@yahoo.com
Mary (773) 327-9221 MDScottie@aol.com

IL4-H Team continued from page 3

identification, topographic map use, the forestry bowl, and forest evaluation.

The event was held at West Virginia University Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp and Conference Center near Weston, West Virginia. The Farm Credit System and the Cooperative Extension Service sponsored the invitational.

Representing Illinois was Jennifer Colbert of White Heath, Alex Dozier of Ivesdale, Megan Kutz of White Heath, and Nate Lawrence of Monticello . The team was coached by Dave Shiley of Champaign.

Steve Franklin of Alabama received the high-point individual award. Second place individual award was given to Jennifer Colbert of Illinois and third place individual award went to Robert Franklin of Alabama.



(left to right) Alex Dozier, Jennifer Colbert, Megan Kutz, Nate Lawrence, and Dave Shiley

Illinois Forestry Association 2008 Annual Meeting

August 23, 2008 at the Worthington, Inn
920 W. Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, Ill. 61920
217/348-61920

Registration will begin at 9:00 am. The \$20 registration fee, which includes refreshments, lunch, and informational materials, is requested by August 19, 2008. Checks should be made payable to IFA or Illinois Forestry Association. Mail to Dave Gillespie at P.O. Box 224, Chatham, IL 62629-0224.

The registration fee will also be accepted at the door, but a phone call is requested for a head count for lunch at 217/483-2711. If you have special needs related to sight, hearing, physical access, or diet, please call the Dave Gillespie at 217/483-2711 in advance of the workshop, so we can attempt to accommodate your needs.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to inform landowners of the progress and accomplishments the Illinois Forestry Association made in 2008. This will also be your opportunity to visit with the directors and listen to some great speakers on important topics.

Meeting Agenda

- 9:00 Registration – Coffee and Doughnuts
- 10:00 Welcome – Illinois Forestry Association
Ray Herman
- 10:05 Leadership Institute
Stephanie Brown
- 10:30 Annual Business Meeting
Ray Herman
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 Introduction of State Legislators
- 1:00 Big Tree Presentation
Jay Hayek
- 2:00 Prescribed Burn
Dick Johnson
- 3:00 Adjourn 2008 Annual meeting

Woodland Workshop Alert

Sept. 11 - Pike County, between Pittsfield and Detroit. A wide range of topics and speakers. Indoor and outdoor activities. Lunch provided. Low registration fee. Contact Brenda at Two Rivers RC&D (217)285-4114 to pre-registration.

Sept. 13 - Effingham County, near Mason. Workshop will key on prescribed burning and its importance in woodland and wildlife management; directional felling and chainsaw safety; and tour of a sawmill, kiln and associated wood finishing tools. Both indoor and outdoor activities. Door Prizes. Lunch available. Contact John Schuler at Post Oak RC&D at (217)347-7107 Ext. 6 to pre-register.

Sept. 16 - Crawford County, near Palestine. Workshop will key on TSI, pruning, control of invasives, direct seeding, and improvements for wildlife. Indoor and outdoor activities. Door Prizes. Lunch provided. Contact John Schuler at Post Oak RC&D (217)347-7107, Ext. 6 to pre-register.

Sept. 17 - Loud Thunder Forest Preserve - Rock Island County. Key issues are chain saw safety; wildlife habitat management, tree shelters and fencing/deer exclusions; tree ID; pruning; and invasive species. Time - 8:30 to 4:00. Lunch served. Registration and fee. Call Sandy at Interstate RC&D (309) 764-1486, ext. 4 to pre-register.

Sept. 20 - Jubilee College Park in Peoria County. Keying on tax issues; tree id; and TSI. Time - 8:30 to 2:30. Contact Amy or Josh at Peoria County SWCD office (309)671-7040 ext. 3 to pre-register. Small fee for lunch.

Oct. 24 - Stephenson Co. Park near Freeport. Full Day. Lots of topics, but keying on all aspects of TSI. Registration with fee. Call Dave or Julie at Blackhawk Hills RC&D to pre-register (815)625-3854.

NOTE: Watch for news releases and posted fliers for further information.

Registration Information

NAME _____

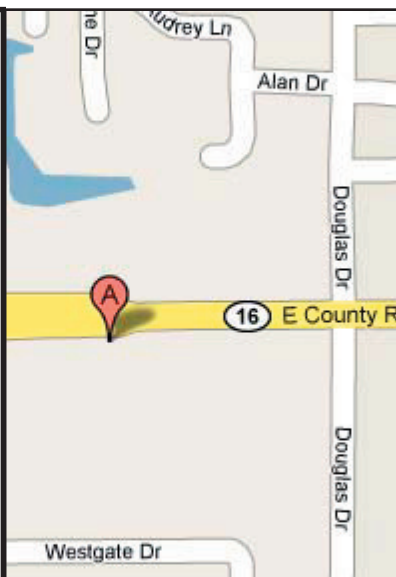
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE, ZIP _____

\$20 Registration Fee is payable at the door or can be mailed to the address below. Make Checks payable to IFA or Illinois Forestry Association:

Dave Gillespie
P.O. Box 224
Chatham, IL 62629-0224
Phone: 217/483-2711



The Worthington Inn is located at Lincoln Ave (Highway 16) and Douglas Street. The Inn is on the South side of Lincoln Ave as you come into Charleston, Ill.

NRCS Report

The 2008 Farm Bill and Forestry

The complete farm bill, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, was enacted on June 18, 2008. The rules are currently being written. Funding level proposed in the Farm Bill does not reflect the actual amount that will be allocated to each program. The new Farm Bill is scheduled to go into effect starting October 1, 2008.

The provisions in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) have increased focus on Agricultural and Forestry Working Lands. The new bill has simplified existing programs and created new programs to address high priority environmental goals.

The following briefly looks at the Conservation, Forestry and Energy Titles of the 2008 Bill that focus on forestry.

Conservation Title

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): The opportunities for forested land within this program have been increased along with the funding levels over the life of the Farm Bill. The purposes of EQIP are expanded to include forest management. Forest management is now an eligible 'production system', an important distinction that will facilitate forested land becoming an integral part of the program. The definition of "eligible land" includes non-industrial private forest lands as well as land on which forest-related products are produced and the definition of a conservation practice has been revised to include forest management.

Conservation Stewardship Program

(CSP) (renamed from Conservation Security Program) will focus on:

- Addressing local priority resource concerns;
- Eligibly now includes up to 10% of enrolled acreage may be in non-industrial private forest land; and
- CSP will be available to all watersheds



Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP):

Non-agricultural lands, as well as State, county, or local government-owned lands are now ineligible for WHIP. This includes NGOs.

- Land eligible for WHIP includes: Private agricultural land; Non-industrial private forest land; and Tribal land.

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (Open Fields) NEW PROGRAM

Provides incentives to state governments and Indian tribes to provide public access to private land for hunting and fishing.

Forestry Title

Establishes National Priorities for Assisting Private Forest Conservation:

The forestry title establishes national priorities for private forest conservation. These priorities include:

- Conserving and maintaining working forest landscapes for multiple uses;
- Protecting forests from threats to forest health; and
- Enhancing public benefits from private forests.

Protects the future of our forests

- Sets new national private forest conservation priorities;

Creates new opportunities for non-industrial private forestland owners through various programs

- Explores the development of new energy feedstocks and other uses for forest biomass in the energy title.

Increases efficiency in existing forestry programs

- Improves cooperation between the government, private landowners and the conservation community in the newly renamed *Forest Resource Coordinating Committee*; and

Establishes a New Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

This program provides matching funds to help county or local governments or non-profit organizations purchase from willing sellers private forests that are threatened by conversion to non-forest use and are economically, culturally, and environmentally important to communities.

Assists Emergency Forest Restoration

A new authority is established to help restore private forest land after disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires.

Energy Title

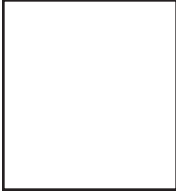
There are several provisions within the Energy Title that address the need for biomass assistance. The **Biomass Crop Assistance Program** supports establishment and production of eligible crops for energy and non-industrial private forest landowners not enrolled in certain other programs can qualify to receive up to 75% cost recovery to establish eligible crops if they have a Forest Stewardship plan or the equivalent.

The Illinois NRCS is anxiously awaiting the rules to be finalized so that EQIP and the other programs in the 2008 Farm Bill can be rolled out to the Illinois landowners and operators.

Sources:

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
U.S. House Committee on Agriculture
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Association of Conservation Districts
Colorado State Government Affairs
– Western Forestry Q&A

Illinois Forestry Association
P.O. 224
Chatham, IL 62629-0224



IFA - To act on issues that impact rural and community forests and to promote forestry in Illinois
